Filed for intro on 02/15/95
House Bill
Ву

Senate No. SB1537 By Womack

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 2, relative to homes for the aged.

## BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-11-201(8), is amended by deleting the language "and who is not ill or physically or mentally unable to care for themselves".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 2, is amended by adding the following new section:

- (a) A home for the aged may operate a ward dedicated to persons diagnosed by any physician, psychiatrist or psychologist to have dementia praesenile, commonly known as Alzheimer's, or a mental disorder.
- (b) The department shall promulgate rules and regulations for such wards in homes for the aged in accordance with the rules and regulations promulgated by the department of mental health and mental retardation for facilities providing care for persons in the early stages of dementia praesenile or a mental disorder.
- (c) Persons suffering from the early stages of dementia praesenile who are mobile but in danger of wandering, are eligible for admission into a home for the aged by

the principal caregiver or patient care advocate. Residents, however, who become bedridden shall be transferred to a licensed hospital or licensed nursing home when more technical care is needed than the personnel and facilities can offer in such a home for the aged.

(d) All wards established under this section shall have use of any existing nurse's station already in operation to adequately care for residents. The ward shall have a locked door. The doors of residents' rooms, however, shall not be locked in order that doors can be used to permit residents to walk unrestrained in the halls. The area immediately next to this ward shall be fenced of appropriate height and residents may be permitted in this area at the discretion of the nursing staff.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring

it.

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